

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO  
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3<sup>RD</sup> St.  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amanda Forrister at 9:00 a.m., who presided and Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

**B. INTRODUCTION:**

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Upon calling the roll, the following Commissioners were reported present.

Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor  
Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner  
Hon. Shelly Harrelson, Commissioner  
Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner was absent

Also Present: Angie Gonzales, City Manager  
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager  
Jay Rubin, City Attorney  
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer  
Luis Tavizon, Chief of Police  
Kristie Wilson, Finance Director  
Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager  
OJ Hechler, Community Services Director  
Arnie Castaneda, Water/Wastewater Director

There being a quorum present, the Commission proceeded with the business at hand.

**2. SILENT MEDITATION:**

Mayor Forrister called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation and she asked that everyone keep the families of Crystal Landford and the family of Brolyn Chavez in your thoughts and prayers.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Forrister called for Commissioner Mitchell to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):**

Cathy Mears Martin and Dean Lemana addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- MainStreet T or C upcoming projects:
- They have restarted discussions about the Great Blocks Project which is underway. They are working with the city to get that moving.
- Here's your sign project: 10 businesses have submitted applications, which is fantastic.
- The LEADS Project: This is their ecommerce project. They are releasing a press release at the end of this week that will be going out to everybody with more information about how to take part in what is involved.
- Recycle Art Show: This will take place between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November. They are collaborating with Sierra Arts Council and the Bountiful Alliance Recycling Committee on this. A press release will go out next week for that.
- They have a new business spotlight column which was launched 3 weeks ago. The first one was A & B Drive in. It is a joint project with Mainstreet and the Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Sierra County Sentinel. Ingo's Art Café was the second one. We are really proud of this new column. It is something that shows what MainStreet is doing in between larger grant related projects and events. They commended Frances Luna for bringing up the idea months ago.

Serina Schooley addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- She lives at 1713 Hagen Street and she has been dealing with sewer issues for years with the city. She has had to file a claim on the city years ago because she ended up with feces inside of her house, inside her sinks, on her floors, in her showers and in her yard. Every weekend she is calling the city because the vacuum system at her house always breaks down. 2 weekends ago she had to call dispatch 4 times, and she still did not get a hold of anybody. She had to make a personal phone call to Arnie. She had to find his number herself to get a hold of him to get this fixed in her yard because dispatch only has one way to get a hold of people when there is an emergency, which she totally does not agree with. There should be more than one way to get a hold of them. The reason why she could not get a hold of them was because their phone was turned off. She doesn't understand why an on call phone should ever be turned off. She had feces on her floor and in her sinks for 14 hours that day. She is not okay with this. She woke up this morning, and there is sewer draining out of the manhole into her yard. She has a video of it. Her whole yard and house smells like feces.

She is at a breaking point and she is about to file a lawsuit because she cannot live like this. She lives at the end of the vacuum pump station so it is not just the feces in her yard that is from her yard. It is from everybody in her neighborhood. It is a biohazard in her house that is affecting her family, her house and her animals. She needs the city to please figure out something.

**D. REPORTS:**

**City Manager Gonzales reported the following:**

- The drinking water state revolving loan fund came out the other day and we were not approved.
- She thanked Cathy and Dean for working so hard on the Grant Project. She and Traci have talked to Mr. Gutierrez at the State MainStreet Organization, and the economic development department. They are looking at throwing some funding this way to work on Foch Street.
- We are working with the Police Chief and the City of Elephant Butte for an Animal Control Officer Contract.
- The Lobbyist has been chosen and that will be discussed later on in the meeting.
- The T or C Chamber of Commerce, Sierra County and herself were all chosen to be on a technical advisory committee for the Spaceport America Masterplan. They had meeting in Las Cruces last Tuesday. She went to that and it was really interesting.
- We will be hosting the Colonias Infrastructure Board on September 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Civic Center. The Commission is not required to attend, but they are welcome to attend.

**Arnie Castaneda, Water/Wastewater Director reported the following:**

- There are rumors going around town regarding his department and some issues that the public has. He was hired 7 months ago, and the first thing he did was assessed the department, equipment, personnel, and what needed attention as he came in. One of the first things he saw was a lack of certified operators. That has obviously been a problem even before he was here. In order to address some of that he re-wrote some of the job descriptions to try and make it better and be more attractive for someone who would apply from out of town. They also adjusted the base scale. They came to the board and asked for some adjustments in pay. While they put this out and advertised it, we hadn't got a lot of applicants that are certified. We had one gentleman who applied, we offered him the job, but once he was here a couple of days, he said, this isn't for me and he left, and since then we have not had any applicants as certified operators. We then turned to hiring labor workers and give them a path to certification. We are giving them the opportunity to go to training and work towards getting certified while we are still advertising for certified operators. That is where we are at right now. Most of our crew are uncertified. Some of them are already going to school or have gone to school, or are training towards their certification. We have two certified operators, and himself. The two certified operators are level 1's in both water and wastewater. There are 4 levels, 4 being the highest. He is the only

level 4 operator for wastewater. He is a level 3 operator for water, so we do need these certified operators. We will still continue to advertise, and we are still trying to give our employees the opportunity to get certified.

- We all know about the failing water infrastructure. It is financially draining with parts, equipment, and in overtime. Every time there is a leak, at minimum, 3 guys have to go out and fix the leak.
- Another thing he saw at the time is that well #6 needed rehab and we did address that. Well #6 was down, but we got it going back again.
- Wastewater shortfalls: The bar screening is inoperable, and that was damaged back in the 2000 floods that you all had down here. It is being cleaned manually, and that is something that we need to address in the short term. It is not anything cheap. It is very expensive to re-build or re-do that section of the treatment plant. The clarifiers at the time were not working correctly. That was also addressed. We contracted Smith Co., but that did cost the city about \$19,000 to get those clarifiers back and operational. There is one mixer/blower that is offline. We do have the equipment that was rehabbed, and so we just need to install it now. There are other little things that are deficient, but nothing is major, as far as that goes.
- We did have an OSHA visit here about 3 weeks ago. Some of the employees made a complaint and so OSHA came down and did a surprise visit. They visited the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and they visited the Cook Station on the water side. On the list of complaints that they had, they all checked out, and there wasn't anything wrong with the clarifier, and OSHA didn't see anything wrong with them. Everything was up to code. They did suggest and require that the department get what we call HUS monitors. Anytime an employee goes near the entrance to work, they need to have the monitor on them. The monitor will beep when there are fumes that one shouldn't be breathing in. We are in the process of buying the monitor right now. They required windsocks at the Cook station. We are getting a new chlorine room and with that we will have a new windsock on there. The windsock is done so we know where the air is blowing in case there is a chlorine leak so we can know where the air flow is so we can evacuate that area of town. OSHA also interviewed one of the employees. They didn't share any of that with him, but they said the report would be ready in about 2 to 3 weeks. It has been about 3 weeks so he is expecting the report here anytime soon, and he will give a report to the Commission once we get it. Also, as the result of OSHA, we evented a better PPE policy, so if you see our employees out there, they are always wearing the vest and just recently we got them hard hats. The letter also talked about raw sewage and the performance of the treatment plant. The treatment plant is working great right now. The two top parameters that we use to see how the treatment plant is working is something that monitors the solids in the water that are flushed down the toilet and the biochemical oxygen demand. The numbers as of last week shows that we are 94% efficient in that parameter which means that we clean 94% of the solids out from when they come into the treatment plant, to what is going into the river. The biochemical oxygen demand shows how strong the sewage is. The last numbers were 91% efficient which means, we clean 91% of the biochemical oxygen demand in there.

The plant is working correctly. It is a very forgiving plant, so even though we had some electrical shut downs and some of the pumps sometimes lock up, the plant is still working correctly. At no point has there been any raw sewage going into the river since he has been here.

- When he was hired, overtime was extremely high. Some of that overtime was warranted, but in his opinion, some of it was not. In an effort to run the department more efficiently, we have implemented a new work schedule that involves employees covering the weekend shifts. In other words, right now, on the weekend, whoever is on call just comes in for a few hours, checks the equipment on the water and sewer side, and then they get to go home. Some employees will be on an 8 hour shift from Sunday through Thursday, and other employees are working from Tuesday through Saturday so that all of the week is covered. With this new schedule, we will be saving approximately \$25,000 a year in overtime funds. These schedules are normal in the industry. This is one of the first places that I have been that employees weren't working the weekend. He has been to a lot a places where his days off were Tuesday's and Wednesday's. Here we are giving the employees at least one of the weekend days off, and we are rotating, so every month everybody gets to rotate so they can have weekends off at some point or another. The employee might be upset because we are cutting the overtime, but this is something essential because we were bleeding overtime funds out before.
- There was also a subject about Hepatitis B or a Hepatitis series of vaccines. A lot of employees in the sewer industry do have their vaccines. It is not a requirement, but it is recommended. If an employee wishes to have their vaccines, all they have to do is ask for them, and we will send them somewhere that they can get their vaccines.
- Right now, anybody who has a problem with a leak or a sewer backup, they can call dispatch. Any call that the city gets to dispatch, the city is charged a fee. I think you have all seen a bill from the county on how outrageous some of those bills are so what we decided to do is contract out a company by the name of doppler and they do dispatch services for communities. We are not the only one. They do dispatch services for the street department, public works, and in this case for water and waste water. We will set up a hotline where people call just for anything having to do with water and sewer. There will be some sort of education to the public that we will need to do so that everyone gets used to switching over to a new number, but anything concerning water or sewer, the company would take it and dispatch our employees out. Right now, we have an on-call phone which we advertise on our website for people to call directly. This will be implemented within the next month or so. Another thing that comes with the doppler is that they will be tracking all of the leaks and all of the problems. Doppler will track the information and say thank you we will take down the information but they won't dispatch our guys out again on that same issue because they will know that was the same problem, and if it continues to spread then they can call higher ups.

**City Attorney Rubin reported the following:**

- As you know the City Commission approved over the last two meetings the variance request for the property of Nate Stephens at the 800 Block of Wyona. There has been an appeal filed by Diane Gunning to District Court. He has gone through the documents that she has submitted, and he already has been doing his own research, and he has already bumped into several arguments that hopefully he will be able to use in court, but in the meantime, there is a status conference with the Judge scheduled for Friday at 11:30 a.m. He will get some more information at that point, and will be able to get back to the Commission at that time. These hearings are always open to the public so if somebody wishes to listen in, they are always welcome to call his office and he can give them the call in information.

**City Commission Reports:**

**Commissioner Mitchell reported the following:**

- She commended the water department for a leak that sprung up when she went to school yesterday morning in front of her house. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that they had to fix it, and by the time that she got home from work it was fixed.
- Hot Springs High School has a new program out which is partnering with the New Mexico Film Prize Junior. It is an after-school program open to 5<sup>th</sup> graders all the way up to seniors. They are partnered up with the local non-profit act to be their fiscal agent. We are looking for students, as well as community members who are interested in helping these children make short films with everything from props to costumes to the actual mechanics of it. She just spoke with a couple that had a professional studio for many, many years. They won 3 Emmys, and they just donated a whole bunch of brand-new equipment to the program. Anyone willing to help can contact her and get with the schools.
- The national honor society has been doing a series of fundraisers to try and raise \$40,000 to go on this really important trip to Washington DC and New York at the end of the year over the summer. They had their first fundraiser Monday night which was a bowling tournament, and they are going to have another bowling tournament coming up. We also talked about doing an adult prom. She thanked everyone who supported the fundraiser on Monday night. She heard that the kids had a blast and they raised a lot of money.

**Commissioner Harrelson reported the following:**

- She asked that the community go out and support our football team. The next game here is in September. Our kids need all of the support they can have.
- Our first volleyball game is the 29<sup>th</sup> which is next Tuesday. We are very excited about that, so please come join us for that.
- Our Envirothon team got 5<sup>th</sup> place in the nationals, and we really need to support them. We also had one of the individuals that almost won 1<sup>st</sup> place against an entire team. She individually got 2<sup>nd</sup> against an entire team in the nation, so we did really well with that.

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- We need to really remember to support our teachers. We are getting started on a new year, and we have a lot of new changes at the school district including drop off and pickup at the Elementary School. She knows that has caused some backup and some stress, but we are trying to finetune the drop off and pickup so please be patient with the system until we get it in place.
- We have early release coming in. Parents please be supportive of this. This is something that our teachers need. If we want to be efficient readers or efficient in math, our staff needs training on that, and the only time we can have that is if we build it into our school days so we are going to have to sacrifice some of those hours during the day so that our teachers can be trained so they can help support your children.
- She thanked Arnie for his support. It sounds to her like the letters that are going around are negative and the entire letter sounds to her like it was internal. We really need to consider how we report out in our community. Lots of other neighborhoods read it. We have all this stuff going on at Spaceport. National people are looking at our community, and every time we support something negative like that, it comes back as a hash mark on us as a bad place to be and we are a good place to be, and we need to report all of the good things. We need to do better as a community. If you are angry about something, go talk to the source. Stop putting it on social media to have that sort of thing come back on us. We don't need that here, and that includes the bloggers out there. The Sentinel is doing a great job with trying to do positive articles and positive things for our community, but it takes a village for our community to get better, and we can't continually put negative things out there. She thinks that we are doing our own community a disservice when we are trying to do so many good things here, and fix the problems we got.

### **Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler reported the following:**

- He agreed 100% with Commissioner Harrelson.

### **Mayor Forrister reported the following:**

- She also agreed with Commissioner Harrelson. She has talked to people who wanted to move here, and wanted to invest in our community, and the first things that they do is go to Google. It is not that hard to Google your town and find everything that has been rant and raved about so yes, as a community we need to be cognitive of what we are putting out into that social media world.

### **E. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, August 9, 2023**
2. **Acknowledge Regular Planning & Zoning Board Minutes, June 12, 2023**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler moved to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**F. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:**

- 1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 09 23/24 Authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority Water Trust Board for design and construction services for the waterline replacement project.**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: The Water Trust Board Cycle has opened up again. The city has submitted a notice of intent to apply for water project funds. We hear that Water Trust Board is going to have upwards of \$133 million this year. That is almost unheard of so we are going to be putting an application in for the max. It doesn't mean that we will be getting it, but we are going to apply for funds for the critical water line replacement for all of these water breaks that we see around town, not one specific area. The application is for \$20 million, and this will require a \$2 million dollar cash match, but we were lucky enough to be awarded federal funds for \$1.6 million in design of the same project, and that \$1.6 million can be used as cash match against this. If we get the notice of award, that will come back to the Commission, and the Commission would have to accept whatever award they give us or chose to not accept it so you guys still have choices to make. We will have to put in a waiver request. We currently have two outstanding Water Trust Board Projects. We have a 2020 Booster Station Project which was just awarded. We had to go back out to bid a couple of times and dumb down the project a little bit to fit within our funding amount so that will be going forward here shortly. We also have a 2021 Water Trust Board outstanding for Cantrel Dam. You recently approved their study, and they moved into the design phase now, so there is a possibility that we won't even receive a Water Trust Board award because we do have outstanding Water Trust Board that we are working on so we put in a waiver request with the application and requested that they grant it anyway with due dates of when we plan to finalize the funds that we have outstanding. In your packet you have the resolution and the notice of intent. There has been questions from the community regarding sometimes applications not being included in the agenda packet, and that is due to almost all of our funders moving to an online portal, and it is not necessarily something you can print out, and if you do print it out it doesn't make sense because there are a lot of drop down boxes, and so when you print, you don't see what we put in the drop box, you just see what the drop box is supposed to be for. The notice of intent is in there with the project description and the resolution.

**Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve Resolution No. 09 23/24 Authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority Water Trust Board for design and construction services for the waterline replacement project. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**



**G. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Discussion/Action: Approval of MainStreet T or C “Adopt a Trash Can for World Clean Up Day” Project.**

Cathy Mears-Martin, MainStreet Truth or Consequences: This project is something that I am incredibly passionate about, and I think it is incredibly positive for the community. MainStreet is collaborating with city services such as the Sanitation Department as well as having discussions with Angie and Traci about this project. We are also collaborating with the Sierra Arts Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the T or C Litter Pickers group as well as the high school. We have an idea to do a litter pick. I've had to change the date on this since sending the packet out and I apologize. It is now going to be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. We are going to do a big clean up event and host it at the Healing Waters Plaza starting at 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. This is something that has happened for the last 2 years, and we have cleaned nearly 1000 pounds of trash within those two previous events, so we are hoping to get a good turn out this year as well. In order to do something a little bit different for this cleanup day and to engage more community members, we came up with the idea to have 6 trash cans that community members could paint, and we put a bid out for people to apply in order to do that and let us know what kind of designs they would want to do for that. I was in discussions with the city in order to make sure that was something that was feasible that we could do together, and also with Andy to make sure it was something they could manage as well so we could organize this, and that is something we aim to do to get them cleaned up and painted in advance before cleanup day so we can reveal them on the day of the litter pick. In the packet I have included information about the event itself. What the adopt a trash can aspect of that is, and the submission rules that we asked people to follow. There is even an example of one of the designs that somebody came up with. I also included the applications that we received where you will be able to see the information that they are aiming to paint. This is something that I will be overseeing, and part of the reason is to just make sure that is clean, and that there is nothing crazy that is going on there.

**Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the MainStreet T or C “Adopt a Trash Can for World Clean Up Day” Project. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Discussion/Action: Approval of CBF Collection Agency Contract.**

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: This is an agreement for collection services for us to contract out a collection agency. I reached out to numerous utility operated entities, and most of them are using this company.

Commissioner Mitchell: Have we been handling collections internally in the recent past?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: Yes, we have.

Commissioner Mitchell: That takes up a significant amount of man power correct?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: It does, and we actually are down a position in the Utility Office, and honestly, we would need a fulltime person to just do collections.

Commissioner Mitchell: Is this contract going to save us money in the long run?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: Hopefully.

Mayor Forrister: I have a question on one of the paragraphs. It says that this agreement is for 25% of the money collected, and it is CBF's discretion to send the account to another agency and receive 40% of the fee. What that be in the city's best interest? Is that something that we have to do? How much are we paying?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: They will be taking 25% of whatever they collect, and if they do have to forward it then it would be the 40%.

City Attorney Rubin: Let me also address a few things. We already have some revisions in our code which does allow for collections. One option you already have is that, when someone is behind on their utilities, you can put a lien on the property, and what happens then is, if you wish to pursue that further, you can refer the lien to me and we can do a foreclosure suit. In fact, we are going to have a discussion about that tomorrow at the City Manager's Office to discuss some overdue accounts. The advantage of when that happens is that when I do a claim for foreclosure, I also do a claim for attorney fees and more often than not, the courts actually have been awarding that, and when something like that happens then I am able to do the work of the collections for the city and you are not having attorney fees for me doing that because you are getting your money back, so I was thinking to myself, if that is the case, why do we even need this proposed contract? I suppose however, maybe it might be an advantage for some of the smaller accounts. As I understand, you are not required to send the claims to CES. It is only at your discretion.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: Correct.

City Attorney Rubin: So, the way our code is set up, you wouldn't really even need this unless you don't want to have all of these possible foreclosure cases.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: We are still going to do our part in the utility office. We are still going to try to collect. This would be the very last step if we could absolutely not collect. The benefit with the utility office, and us collecting a lot of the debt is that people's information is tied to their accounts, so if someone comes in, even if they have a different last name, whenever we are entering their information, it will pop up if they had a previous account, then at that time they are required to catch up their bill in full.

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Mayor Forrister: What are our procedures right now?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: We bill the customer, and then we bill them again. We then send them a delinquent letter, then we "red tag" them, and if they are shut off for non-payment, then we send a delinquent letter, and if we can't collect at that time then we will look to see if they have maybe two accounts, and then if not then we will try to collect, and if we can't within the next year, then I say, that would be the time to send them to collections. Unless it is a huge balance, then we could go through the lien process. I would say, anything under \$1,000 or less should go to the collection agency, and anything over that should go through the lien process.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: Just in general, how much money is out there in arrears right now?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: I did an aging report for the City Manager. She wanted one for active accounts and one for inactive accounts, and I think the one I did that was combined was for \$200,000? When I run a billing cycle for active accounts, which goes on the aging report, it is \$320,000 per billing cycle. Cycle A was over \$530,000 this last month so that is the thing with an aging report. I think we need to focus on the inactive accounts because when you include the active accounts, that is including the accounts that people are still paying on.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: Who typically has the delinquent accounts? Are they repeat customers?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: Yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: So, they are in the system already? Why are they then allowed to have another account, or are they?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: They are not unless they are paid up in full. We are lot stricter on the "frequent Flyers" so we try to set more rules, and have higher deposits to make sure if it happens, and when the account is closed the deposit will cover any amount that is owed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: Are many of these people renters?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: Yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: So, the responsibility of the delinquent account is the renters, and not the owners?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: Only if paperwork is filled out. If not, then it does fall on the property owner.

City Attorney Rubin: That is a very interesting question actually because the ordinance says that the lien would be attached to the property itself.

Mayor Forrister: That is where it is going to get tricky. I think that we need to let our property owners know that they are liable for their renters, and when their renters leave and there is a bill left unpaid, then I am sorry but that property owner better have held onto their security deposit or done something, because if not, we are going to go after that property regardless of who the account is under.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager: In Tyler we have a landlord option which is wonderful because we can include the landlord in the billing, so the landlord is then aware when their renter is falling behind on their utilities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: So, then we should have a standard operating procedure that we include the property owners as a responsible party to the delinquent accounts.

**Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the CBF Collection Agency Contract. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Discussion/Action: Approval of State of NM Tourism Department Clean and Beautiful Grant Program Agreement.**

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: The city submitted an application for the FY2024 Clean & Beautiful Grant for clean-up activities that include youth groups, reusables, and recycled benches. The city was awarded \$4,513.18. The grant does require a cash match of 25% which amounts to approximately \$1,130 of in-kind services. We applied for more than what we actually received, but there are categories in the clean and beautiful grant, and we have to apply within those stipulations to be awarded the funds for those categories.

**Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the State of NM Tourism Department Clean and Beautiful Grant Program Agreement. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Discussion/Action: Accept 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award.**

Chief of Police Tavizon: I put in for the 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). We were awarded \$39,800 specifically for 10 laptop computers for the officers and docking stations to replace our desktops, as well as for the software. I am

here to request that you approve accepting the funds so we can move forward. This is not a cash match, it is a reimbursement grant.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to accept the 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Discussion/Action: Approval of Purchase Requisitions over \$20,000.**

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director reviewed the Purchase Requisitions over \$20,000 provided in the packet.

**Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve Purchase Requisitions over \$20,000. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**6. Discussion/Action: Agreement with NMDOT for CDL Training and Testing Site.**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: The NMDOT has been using a site at the T or C Municipal Airport for CDL Training and Testing. Staff wishes to continue to work with NMDOT and allow them the use of the site, therefore an updated agreement needs to be put in place.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to approve the agreement with NMDOT for CDL Training and Testing Site. Commissioner Harrelson and Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Discussion/Action: Agreement between the City of Truth or Consequences and Civility Government Relations.**

City Manager Gonzales: The city submitted a request for a quote to procure the services of a Lobbyist to assist in securing funding to address the infrastructure needs of the community. A committee including, Traci Alvarez, Mindee Holguin, and Angela Torres met to review and discuss all quotes. The committee's recommendation is to award Civility Government Relations the agreement.

**Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the agreement between the City of Truth or Consequences and Civility Government Relations. Commissioner**

**8. Discussion/Action: TDS Easement Agreement.**

City Manager Gonzales: TDS currently has an existing utility easement on parcel 3022077503362 that expires February of 2024. The city would like to enter into an agreement to continue the use of this utility easement.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler moved to approve the recommendation to re-appoint David Senn to Airport Advisory Board. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**

**9. Discussion/Action: Approve the recommendation to re-appoint David Senn to Airport Advisory Board.**

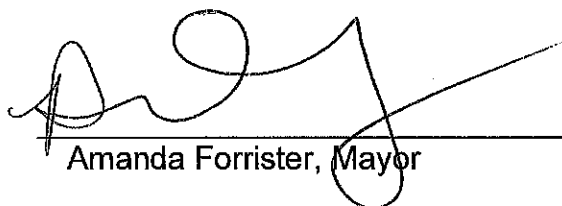
City Clerk Torres: David Senn is a current member of Airport Advisory Board. On August 8th the board made a recommendation to re-appoint Mr. Senn to serve another term on the board. Staff recommends approval of the board's recommendation.

**Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the recommendation to re-appoint David Senn to Airport Advisory Board. Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**


**J. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mayor Forrister adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.**

**Passed and Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.**



Amanda Forrister, Mayor



Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk